

**PROSPECTUS  
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**



**Meikei**  
High School

**Tsukuba Science City  
Ibaraki, Japan**



*Meikei – Making the Difference*

# Welcome

Meikei High School is a private co-educational day and boarding school for boys and girls aged from 12 to 18. It was founded in 1979 as Meikei-kai, the alumni association of the University of Tsukuba, formally known as Tokyo University of Education, celebrated its centenary.

Ever since its foundation, the distinctive feature of Meikei has been the great all-round education that enables each student to reach for the best of their potential. We are very proud of the thousands of young men and women who have been educated at Meikei and gone on to take their places in society. Many Meikei graduates have achieved outstanding success in various fields including scientific research, medicine, law, business, education, the arts and music, not only in Japan but overseas.

Meikei High School became an IB World School in July 2016, and our first International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students started the dual language Diploma Programme in English and Japanese in April 2018.





## Vision

Our vision is to help young people acquire the skills they will need to succeed in the increasingly global society of the 21st century. We aim to ensure that our students graduate from Meikei as independent-minded individuals who have a full sense of responsibility, cooperativeness and creativity.

## Message from the Principal

Here at Meikei High School we have high expectations of our students' academic, extra-curricular and personal development. We place particular emphasis on the balance between study and sports embodied in the Japanese expression "bunburyodo" (文武両道), originally used to refer to one equally versed in both literary and martial arts. In addition, we pride ourselves on providing many and varied opportunities that will help all our students take their places as responsible, cooperative and creative members of society. Our recent verification as an IB World School is but one example of our desire to expand the choices offered to our students.

When Meikei was founded in 1979, the philosophy of establishment was to raise young people with an international perspective. Our essential vision has remained the same ever since. Over the years we have continued to challenge new things in an endeavour to adapt to the changing world whilst maintaining our uniqueness.





## Setting and Facilities

Meikei High School is located in Tsukuba Science City, Ibaraki Prefecture, approximately 45 minutes from Tokyo on the Tsukuba Express railway line and 55 minutes from Narita Airport by bus.



The school is situated in pleasant surroundings, with Akatsuka Park bordering it on the east. Meikei boasts a newly-built auditorium, a library which houses approximately 75,000 volumes, a separate fine arts suite, two playing fields including a rugby pitch with artificial turf, a pool, two gymnasiums, one of which is equipped with a gymnastics pit, a judo dojo, a kendo (Japanese fencing) dojo, and tennis courts.



Full-time nursing staff and counselors are included in the various student support services. A hot school lunch is cooked onsite in the two cafeterias for all Junior High School students. Senior High School students may choose to bring their own lunch, buy lunch at the school shop or order the school lunch.

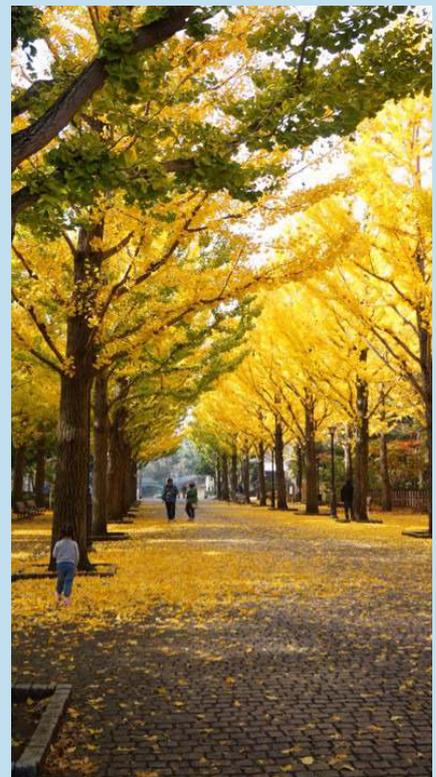


Accommodation for boarders is provided by a dormitory located three minutes' walk from the school. Each House has its own housemaster / housemistress and support staff. Boarders eat all their meals at the school cafeteria. Day students also experience life in the school dormitory for a week in Junior 1, Junior 3 and Senior 2 so that all the students can participate in special lectures and sports activities with the aim of strengthening understanding and friendship through communal living.



# About Tsukuba

Tsukuba is home to more than 300 public and private research institutions and the University of Tsukuba. It is now the largest science and technology site in Japan. Our close proximity to institutions, such as the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) means our students are able to obtain support first-hand when they carry out the year-long project in Senior 2. There are also opportunities for our students to visit these institutions and learn directly from the leading scientists in all fields.



# General Curriculum

Students in Junior 1, 2, 3 and Senior 1 study a full range of subjects which include Japanese, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, English, Music, Art, Calligraphy, Home Economics, Information Technology and Physical Education.



In Senior 2, students study Japanese, Social Studies, Science, English, and Physical Education as compulsory subjects. Senior 2 students then select one subject from Mathematics, elective Japanese or elective English, and one from Music, Art or Calligraphy.

In Senior 3, students study Japanese, English, Information Technology and Physical Education as compulsory subjects. Senior 3 students then select up to eight subjects according to the requirements for their university pathways.

At all year levels, we offer special English classes for students with a high level of English proficiency.

## IBDP at Meikei

Students who pursue the IB Diploma in Senior 2 and 3 choose six subjects in accordance with IBO regulations. Subjects offered in Japanese are Japanese Literature A, History, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics. English B, Environmental Systems and Societies and Film are offered in English. Two or more English subjects must be taken to qualify for the Dual Language Diploma. Students in the IB Diploma Programme who fulfill the extra requirements will also receive the Japanese High School Graduation Certificate. In Senior 1, a pre-IB preparatory program is provided for those who wish to carry on to the IB Diploma Programme Course in Senior 2.



# Curriculum Overview

Subject Areas	Junior 1	Junior 2	Junior 3	Senior 1	Senior 2	Senior 3
Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Contemporary Japanese Language Japanese Classics	Contemporary Japanese Language Japanese Classics
Social Studies	Geography History	Geography History	Civics Geography	World History Contemporary Society	Geography Japanese History World History	Geography Japanese History World History Ethics Modern Social Studies Politics and Economy
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Biology Chemistry	Earth Science Physics	Biology Chemistry Earth Science Physics	Biology Chemistry	Biology Chemistry Earth Science Physics	Biology Chemistry Earth Science Physics
English	English	English	English	English Communication English Expression	English Communication English Expression	English Communication English Expression
Arts	Art Calligraphy Music	Art Music	Art Calligraphy Music	Art Calligraphy Music	Art Calligraphy Music	
Technology and Home Economics	Home Economics	Home Economics	Home Economics	Home Economics Information Studies		Information Studies
Health and Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Health Physical Education	Physical Education	Health Physical Education
Others	Moral Education	Moral Education	Moral Education	Individual Research Project	Individual Research Project	

**Bold** type indicates compulsory subjects. IBDP course not shown.

# Co-curricular Programs

Outdoor education programs are provided in the form of camps for Junior 1 and Junior 2 students, while Junior 3 and Senior 1 students participate in field trips to study water quality, geology and agriculture in Tsukuba and adjacent cities as part of their Science or Social Studies classes.

Other co-curricular programs of note include the Junior 3 students' annual trip to Hiroshima and Kyoto, and the Senior 2 students' annual study tour to Australia. In Hiroshima and Kyoto, students are able to learn more about the culture of their own country, while Senior 2 students are expected to use their English in a real-life situation on a homestay and a visit to several institutions of their choice.

From the second semester of Senior 1, all students work on a year-long project in their field of interest, a kind of "mini-thesis" as it were. A summary of this research is also given as a PowerPoint presentation. Projects considered to be exceptional are later presented at the University of Tsukuba and evaluated by professors specializing in related fields. A number of students will later be selected to present their research in English overseas.



# Extra-curricular Activities

## SPORTING:

- Badminton
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Hip-hop Dance
- Judo
- Kendo (Japanese Fencing)
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball



## CULTURAL:

- Art
- Calligraphy
- Chamber Music
- Chorus
- Computer
- Drama
- English
- Guitar
- Illustration
- Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Photography
- Rakugo (Japanese Comedy)
- Science
- Volunteer
- Wind Orchestra



# Dormitory Life

About one-tenth of all the students in the school are boarders and live in the dormitory which is only a three-minute walk from the school ground. The dormitory is divided into three Houses and there is a housemaster / housemistress in each House, who is responsible for the overall welfare of the students in their House.

Under the warm care of dedicated House staff, the students in the dorm are expected to live a well-balanced life, carry out duties within the House and be independent. Rooms are shared with one or two other students of different year groups and this helps the students develop their communication skills. The dormitory is the place where students make lifelong friendships, build confidence and become fully equipped for life after Meikei, both at university and beyond.



## Daily Routine for Senior High School Dorm Students



<b>06:20</b>	Wake-up
<b>06:30</b>	Morning roll call
<b>07:00-08:00</b>	Breakfast
<b>08:20</b>	Leave for school
<b>18:30</b>	All return to dormitory
<b>16:00-19:20</b>	Bath
<b>17:30-19:00</b>	Dinner
<b>19:30</b>	Evening roll call
<b>19:30-22:30</b>	Study time
<b>22:30-23:00</b>	Free time / Get ready for bed
<b>23:00</b>	Lights out

# International Education

At Meikei, we offer our students numerous opportunities to study abroad, both long-term and short-term. Each year some students choose to take part in a one-year program to study in various countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Finland, Germany, France, Costa Rica and Chile. One of the popular short-term programs is the two-week exchange with schools in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and the United Kingdom.

We have close links with high schools in New Zealand, Australia, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the United Kingdom. There are often groups of students from these countries visiting us and the students at Meikei very much enjoy the opportunities to make friends across the world. With the following four schools, Meikei has a friendship school partnership:

Christ College, United Kingdom; Nelson College, New Zealand; Nelson College for Girls, New Zealand and King Henry VIII College, Malaysia.

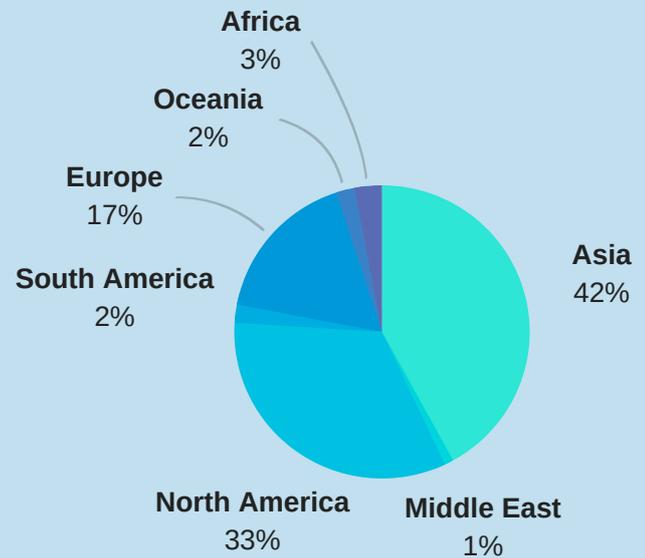


While the majority of our graduates go on to some of the most academically-renown universities in Japan, an increasing number are choosing to go overseas for their tertiary studies. In recent years, graduates obtained passes to universities in the United States and Australia.

In previous years, former Meikei students have utilized the IB Diploma Programme at United World Colleges to enter a variety of prestigious institutions abroad. These include Harvard University, MIT, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Carnegie Mellon University in the United States; the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, and the University of St. Andrews in the United Kingdom; and McGill University and the University of Toronto in Canada.

# Returnees at Meikei

Meikei High School has been designated by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture and Science as a school to accept children who have lived overseas for an extended period of time ("returnees" or 帰国子女 in Japanese). Over 15% of the present student body consists of returnees from some 35 countries. Special classes are provided for students who have demonstrated their English ability, and supplementary classes are also provided to help any students who are behind in their knowledge of Japanese Language, Mathematics, Social Studies and / or Science. The experiences of these returnee students serve to enrich school life for the entire student body.



**Fig. 1 Regions where Meikei returnees previously resided**

"After I entered the school, I was able to enhance my Japanese at a moderate speed, and keep my English level stable in the special English class. Some may think that returnees cannot learn English in Japan as much as they can overseas, but this is not always the case. At Meikei, there are English teachers from a variety of countries, and we are also able to learn English from a Japanese perspective in the grammar classes." - A returnee from the United States

"Ever since I transferred to Meikei High School, my life has been so fulfilling! At Meikei, I was able to join the special English classes for returnees and I have been able to improve my English to a more advanced level. Besides classes, we can challenge and experience many new things here. Through the various kinds of school events, we can obtain not only knowledge and academic ability, but also friendship, physical strength, leadership and cooperative skills. Lastly, and maybe most importantly, we obtain a sense of independence." - A returnee from Singapore

# International Students at Meikei

Meikei High School has a long history of welcoming international students from all over the world. In recent years, students have come from South Africa, France, Germany, Denmark, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, the United States, Brazil and Chile.



International students belong to homerooms and attend classes with Japanese students. All classes except English are conducted in Japanese. Meikei provides a number of special Japanese language classes for international students, according to their language proficiency.

Students participate in some of the school activities such as school festival and sports competition. It is strongly recommended that international students participate in club activities whilst at Meikei.

We opened the doors of our dormitory to international students in August 2017. For international students, living in the dormitory is an excellent way to improve their Japanese and learn about Japanese culture and customs. It is also a great opportunity for our domestic students to understand different cultures and lifestyles.



# Sample Timetable for International Students

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	8:35 - 8:40	Homeroom					
1	8:45 - 9:35	Maths	Contemporary Society	Art	Chemistry	Home Economics	JSL
2	9:45 - 10:35	Contemporary Society	English Communication	Art	English Communication	Home Economics	JSL
3	10:45 - 11:35	Biology	Information Studies	Mathematics	Biology	English Communication	English Expression
4	11:45 - 12:35	Chemistry	P.E.	Mathematics	World History	JSL	Mathematics
	12:35 - 13:35	Lunch break					
5	13:35 - 14:25	English Communication	Mathematics	JSL	P.E.	Mathematics	13:25 - 13:35 Homeroom
6	14:35 - 15:25	Assembly	English Expression	World History	JSL	Health	13:35 - 13:50 Cleaning duties
	15:25 - 15:35	Homeroom					
	15:35 - 15:50	Cleaning duties					
	16:00 - 18:00	Club activities					
	18:00	End of activities					

JSL (Japanese as a Second Language) is offered at all levels depending on students' needs.



# Testimonials



I think I am so lucky that I can study at Meikei High School. It is very different from my school in Taiwan. Meikei has many different kinds of subjects we can study and also there are many great teachers who help us with any questions. We have a large field to play rugby. I didn't have any chances to play rugby in my life before coming to Meikei. There are other sporting facilities we can use too!

Ching Fu, Sr.1, Taiwan



I studied at Meikei for six months. During my time at Meikei, I enjoyed many exciting things such as visits to JAXA, hot springs and Tokyo Disney Sea, and I learned a lot about Japan. In class, I had opportunities to do presentations and I think it helped me very much. I became a member of the guitar club and made many friends through the club. The classmates and the class teacher were also very friendly and helpful. I am very happy that I had a chance to come to Japan and study at Meikei High School. I will cherish these good memories after I go back home.

Yujia Su, Sr.2, China



*If you want to challenge yourself, then you should probably go to Meikei. At first, I found the lessons harder than what I was used to, but when you get it, you can really be advanced in your studies. Here at Meikei, lots of interesting things always happen. For example, many international students come to experience Meikei as well as exchange students coming to study together at Meikei. There's always something interesting going on. Sports are also strong, especially the badminton club, the kendo club, and the rugby club. So if you fit all these conditions, then hurry and come to Meikei! I'm sure you'll have lots of fun and interesting experiences here.*

John Collin Owen Abayan Sy, Sr.1, The Philippines



A video message from a former student of Meikei, Nguyen Minh (Vietnam), who is now studying at the University of Tsukuba.

# Meikei – Making the Difference

At Meikei High School we offer young men and women:

- an exciting opportunity to learn at a progressive independent school that is creating its own traditions
- academic achievement with passes to some of the most prestigious and academically-renown universities in Japan and overseas
- an opportunity to pursue the IB Diploma Programme
- an in-depth education in the sciences due to our status as a Super Science High School
- extensive co-curricular, extra-curricular and sporting programs
- numerous opportunities to study abroad, both long-term and short-term including exchanges with schools in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and the United Kingdom
- the advantage of our close links with the University of Tsukuba and high schools in New Zealand, Australia, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the United Kingdom
- support from research institutions in the local community



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